

# Ghana Box 1

Each object in the box has been photographed and a short description added to help you use the objects in a meaningful and culturally respectful way. Please check that all the objects shown below are in the box when you first collect it and that all the objects are returned, in good condition, at the end of the loan period. Some objects are fragile please treat with care. Any lost or damaged objects will be charged for.

**CHECKLIST: 20** (plus extra gourd and material pieces)



**Gourds** or **calabash** are grown all over Ghana and are used mainly as utensils for the kitchen: to carry water, sift rice, vessels to drink from, and pots for storage. They are also used in various forms as musical instruments

*2 included*



An **oil lamp** made from a recycled tin. The lamp is filled with oil and a cotton wick is threaded through the funnel. These are used outside to light up stalls and the places where people work or talk during the evening.



This **brush** is made from a collection of long stiff grasses that grow locally. They are collected and held together with string or strips of cloth. These are used to sweep up dirt and dust in the house but also some are used for cleaning the area just outside where people often sit.



**Traditional sandals** made of leather. Come in a variety of colours and design. A chief will have very ornate sandals that he wears for ceremonial occasions.

**Flip Flops** are worn by many people

In many markets there are stalls selling lots of shoes just like the shoes we buy in York

---

Please return all articles to Centre for Global Education York,  
York St John University, Lord Mayor's Walk, York YO31 7 EX.

Tel: 01904 876755

email: [cge@yorks.ac.uk](mailto:cge@yorks.ac.uk)



The designs on **fabrics** are made in different ways

- Woven fabric called **kenti**
- **batik** – the design is made used wax resists
- **tie-dye** – the plain fabric is tied tightly with thread or string before it is submersed in different coloured dyes

*4 pieces included*



This **net cloth** is used for washing. When it is wet is gets softer. Stretched out it is good for giving your back a good scrub!



**Cleaning teeth** –some people like to use a toothbrush and paste. Others might use chewing sticks



**Oware set**

This is a game of skill and strategy. It is the oldest existing board game in the world

You will find instructions for Oware in the artefact box



This **wooden pestle** is used for grinding spices in a rough clay dish



### Postcards with traditional **Adinkra symbols**

Adinkra symbols were developed by the Ashante people of West Africa and can be traced back to the 17<sup>th</sup>. The symbols are created by cutting a stamp out of the thick skin of a calabash gourd. The stamp is dipped in dye, made from tree bark, and then repeatedly pressed onto cloth to create patterns. Each of the stylized patterns has a name and meaning based on a proverb or historical legend. The shapes of humans, animals, plants, and objects inspired the geometric forms of the symbols



### Grater

This is used for grating spices like nutmeg. The grater has been made by recycling old metal



### Money

The money in Ghana is known as **cedis**



### **Bottle tops**

In Ghana you will find many drinks in bottles with crown tops and as nothing goes to waste these tops are recycled in many ways eg:

- as counters in schools
- for games
- as wheels on toys



### **Plastic bowl / bucket**

*(one in box)*

In the markets there are piles of bowls and buckets in many different sizes and colours. These small ones are often used to scoop water up from a bigger bucket when washing if there is no plumbed in bathroom



### **Banana Leaf Fan**

In some places people will do their cooking outside on an open fire and this fan is used to make the fire hotter by fanning the flames. Not everyone in Ghana cooks outside lots of people have kitchens with cookers very similar to ours.

The fan can be used for keeping cool when it is very hot



### **Cooking Pot**

This is one style of Ghanaian cooking pots but there are many different sorts and some are just the same as ours.



### **Shirt**

This shirt is made from tie-dyed material and has machine embroidery



### **School Uniform**

All children in Ghana wear a uniform to school. For girls it is a blouse with a pinafore dress or skirt. Boys wear a shirt and shorts.

Most pupils wear brown and yellow uniforms though some of the church schools have now changed to different colours eg blue and white but the style is still the same.



### **Water Bags**

These bags are filled with purified water which is often frozen so that you can have a really cold drink.

You can also buy purified water in bottles just as people do here in the UK



### **The Meaning of the Flag**

the three colours of red, gold & green because of the geography of Ghana. Ghana lies in the tropics and blessed with rich vegetation. The colour Gold was influenced by the mineral rich nature of our lands and Red commemorates those who died or worked for the country's independence. Then the five pointed lone star which is the symbol of African emancipation and unity in the struggle against colonialism.